

# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 15, Issue 10

October 2017



The FUMC-C Children's Department is teaming with the Commerce community, including the A.C. Williams PTO, A&M-C Children's Learning Center, and Jerry D. Morris Recreation Center, to host the annual **Trunk or Treat** event at **Halloween on the Square**, Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, and we need YOUR help!

You may help in three ways:

1. **Donate CANDY, CANDY, CANDY!! (we need LOTS!)**
2. **Donate money so we can buy CANDY!**
3. **Decorate the "trunk" of your vehicle on Halloween night and hand out candy to kids (or BOTH!)**

### Details for Decorating Your Vehicle

If you are interested in decorating the back of your vehicle there are lots of great ideas on Pinterest, or you may contact Kristi Robertson for ideas. If you plan to attend with your vehicle, please contact Kristi (info below). We will line up vehicles in the parking area in the center of the square downtown. Local businesses/churches will set up to hand out candy on the perimeter of the square. This is a great way for kids in our community to have a safe and fun trick-or-treating experience on Halloween night.

**Kristi Robertson: Mobile** (Text/Call): **(903) 456-2093** ~ **Email:** [Kristi.Robertson@att.net](mailto:Kristi.Robertson@att.net)

### Details for Donating Candy

Please send bags of individually pre-wrapped candy to the church office labeled "Trunk or Treat". **The more candy the better!** Last year's *Halloween on the Square* event had approximately 4,000 – 5,000 kids walk through! Sharing the expense of the candy is a huge help. Start sending as many bags of candy as you can now through Halloween.

**We are expecting this to be a spooktacular event!!!**

**We will be communicating with you regularly about this event on the A.C. Williams PTO Facebook page. Follow us there at [www.facebook.com/acwptopage](http://www.facebook.com/acwptopage)**

**Thank you for your help!**

**FUMC-C Children's Department ~ A.C.Williams PTO  
Children's Learning Center ~ Jerry D. Morris Recreation Center**

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## The Look of Peace

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



While I was in seminary I spent a year as a student chaplain in Duke University Medical School's Clinical-Pastoral-Education Program. After I returned to Texas, in the early 1990s while Pastor at Cockrell Hill United Methodist Church in Dallas, I worked part-time at Methodist Central Hospital as an Adjunct Chaplain; in that capacity, as at Duke, I had many duties, including pastoral care responsibilities for the Neurology Floor. However, one of my most important responsibilities was to serve 3 nights a month as the on-call chaplain. Spending all night in the Hospital gave me new insights into what it means to be awakened by sudden sounds. Usually such sounds are just a nuisance: I sit up in bed, listen to the siren for a moment, and then fall back onto my pillow and into the comfortable arms of sleep. When on-call at the hospital, and the pager would go off at 3 am to alert me to an approaching ambulance or care-flight helicopter, I couldn't fall back onto my pillow. I was responsible for taking care of what was going on. I had to get up, put on my pants and shoes, shirt, clerical collar, and coat, grab my pad, pager, and bible, and head out the door and down the hall toward the Emergency Department. I went because those being brought in might need help—they might need someone to pray with them, call family or friends, or help them communicate with the hospital staff.

As I road down in the elevator I wondered about what I was going to find when I got there. Each and every time it was a new challenge: from automobile accident to gunshot victim, each patient was different, with different needs, fears, hopes and dreams. I have been welcomed by frightened people who are in need of the comforting experience of the presence of God. I have been yelled at with hatred by those who view me, and God, as liars. I have been regarded a nuisance by some of the hospital staff, who delighted in saying "chaplains are worthless fairytale merchants," while others have looked upon me as a "comforting angel in disguise." More than once, I have had a weary-eyed nurse or physician turn to me when the evening has gone "to pot," in hopes of hearing a word that brings some sense of sanity to the insanity of daily living. The way a chaplain is received can be as varied as there are days in the year and people in the world.

The need to be there was great, and so I went; on the one hand I might not have been needed, but on the other hand I might have been as essential in any given situation as any doctor or nurse. I could recount many times in which all a patient needed was prayer. I could also tell of those times when the patient was so close to death that I have been gripped by their dying hand, and have had my head pulled close to theirs so that I might hear a gasped confession of sin as the doctors and nurses frantically worked to save their life. They quickly list any number of sins, some important-sounding, some not, but all important enough to them to expend their last few breaths asking for forgiveness. I can also remember the fear on their faces giving way to peace as I pronounced the ancient words of the Church, the words given to us by our Lord: "In the Name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven."

And it's that look of peace which made all of the insanity worth it. It's the look of peace that we should all feel and know when we hear those same words each and every time we make a public confession of sin to Almighty God (which we do every time we come to the Table of the Lord for Holy Communion). I know that most of us, as Protestants, don't have the tradition of making confession to God before a priest, and, while I agree that we don't need a clergy-person to intercede for us, nevertheless there are times when it is helpful to seek guidance along our spiritual journey. Likewise, it is a very powerful experience for me to kneel before an altar and make my confession of sin to God, and then to hear those words that Jesus gave us—those words which wash away guilt and bring assurance: "In the Name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven."

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

### Pastor's Bible Study

Continuing on Tuesdays at 1pm in the Friendship Classroom. We're slowly working our way through the book of Genesis! It's never too late to join us!

FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon  
October 5  
@ 12pm

# THE LIGHT

## FUMC COMMERCE

**Contemporary Service**  
**Sundays @ 6pm**  
**Childcare & Sunday School available**

**Contemporary Worship that really jams!!**

Come and worship with us at 6pm in the Family Ministry Center! Our Contemporary service features current Christian praise music and upbeat worship songs, so come and be blessed by the music and the preached word.

On the First Sunday of the month we also have a Potluck at 5pm  
So, bring a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship!

Dr Greg and Pastor Brian share the evening preaching duty on an alternating basis, and most of the evening messages are different from the morning sermons. So, if you attend morning services, come to evening Church as well and let your spirit soar!

### Worship

*Sunday, October 1*

*Sunday, October 8*

*Sunday, October 15*

*Sunday, October 22*

*Sunday, October 29*

*8:45am ~ Chapel*

*10:50am ~ Sanctuary*

*6:00pm ~ Family  
Ministry Center*

### Mid-Month Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, Oct. 11**  
**5:30 pm in the Chapel**  
This is a special service of prayer, contemplation, and Communion conducted in the Anglican Tradition.

All are welcome!



### October 1 is World Communion Sunday!

Come and worship with us as we proclaim the Gospel of Grace and Peace, open and available to all. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord, where grace is freely given and love is freely shared.

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

**Sunday, October 8**  
**3:00pm**

in the Church's front yard, next to the St. Francis statue

Bring your pets and your fur-friends for an opportunity to be blessed!



SAVE THE DATE  
**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23**  
**11AM-1PM**

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the end of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at [communications@fumccommerce.org](mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org), or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

**\*\*The next deadline is Tuesday, October 24 by 9:00am\*\***





POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**National Night Out  
Tuesday, October 3  
@ 6-9pm**

**at the Commerce Police Dept.**

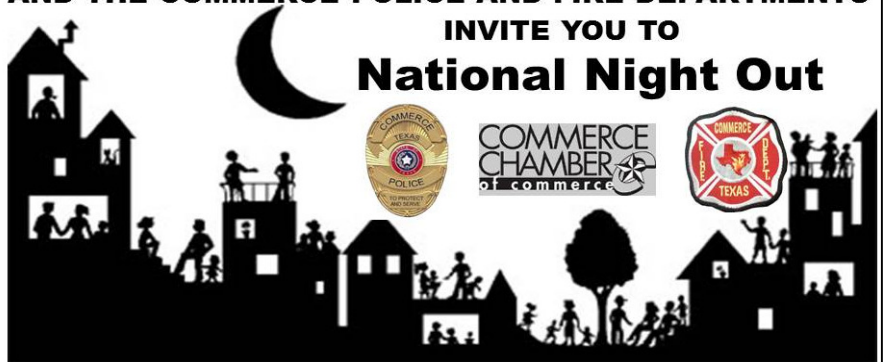
We are looking for 6-9 volunteers to work 1-hour slots at the FUMC-C table as we hand out bottled water and stickers while we connect with the community.

Please consider joining your church family at this positive community event!!

**COMMERCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND THE COMMERCE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

INVITE YOU TO

**National Night Out**



**OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup> 6PM TO 9PM**

At the Commerce Public Safety Building  
1103 SYCAMORE

**\*\* FREE FOOD FUN AND GAMES \*\***  
(tours of police and fire station, bounce house, games, food, shows, and more)



Love one another.

**#commercestrong!**

Our church participated in Commerce Strong, an event aimed at bringing the community closer together.

We had several volunteers who worked at the FUMC-C table and connected with the community while handing out bottles of cold water that were donated by Fix & Feed.



(Our church presence is under the tent in the background)

*Prayer Shawl Ministry*



The FUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry Group does more than just knit and crochet! This year we will continue

our current projects (shawls, lap robes, hats for cancer patients, scarves for troops, mittens for children, & greeting card ministry), but we have added several new projects. We will be helping to provide after school snacks for the children's choir, donating funds to help our Children's Department participate in the City's annual "Trunk or Treat" at Halloween on the Square, and making a financial donation to Little Ark. Finally, in October we will deliver treats and snacks to our local first responders. Prayer Shawl is a fun, productive group, and we invite you to join us the second Monday of each month at 9:30. You don't have to know how to knit, crochet or quilt/sew; we will teach you (or you can just stop by for a visit).



# BOIS D'ARC BASH PARADE WINNER



Congratulations to our Children's Department's for their Bois d'Arc Bash Parade float winning the "Best Theme Entry" trophy. The force was strong with this group of our church's children which represented our morning and evening Sunday School kids, Children's Choir, and Little Ark.



**YOD'ARC  
APPLES**

Thank you to the Children's Council for getting this fun event together for our kids!



## *fume-e* children's council

Our Children's Council has been busy the last couple of months working on the Bash Parade float and planning the Trunk or Treat event on Halloween night. For those who may be wondering who makes up our Children's Council, it is: Kim Bruister, Kris Ann Clark, Tiffany Harrison, Shelly Oats, Kristin Poe, Kristi Robertson, Bonnie Smith, Amy Stark, and Joanna Thrift. If you would like to help, support, and/or offer suggestions for events, please contact one of these ladies.



Griddlecakes for Grandparents was a huge success thanks to the Little Ark teachers. About 80 grandparents came to enjoy pancakes with their grandchildren. I would like to send a thank you to Amy Stark for coming and helping out!  
\*\*Pre-K facebook page has some pics.

On October 10th Little Ark is hosting Donuts with Dad at 8:00a.m.in the Family Ministry Center.

October's Chapel sessions/bible stories are about God asking us to be Brave--Esther Saves the People.

*Create* in me a clean heart, O God;  
and *renew* a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

# MISSION of the MONTH

October's Mission of the Month is Hunt County Clothe-a-Child, which this year is celebrating 28 years of providing clothing to children in need. All \$1 bills and designated gifts placed in the offering plate during



October will benefit this important program. Last December, 250 Commerce students referred by teachers and counselors each shopped for \$50 worth of clothing and shoes at our local Wal-Mart. Also throughout the year, Clothe-a-Child provides help to families in distress, due to fire, flood, tornado or other natural disasters. For more information or to help with shopping days in early December, contact Belinda Miller, Commerce Elementary School counselor, at 903.886.3757.



## Registrars Needed!

### October is Hunt County Gives Registration Month

Volunteers are needed to assist with registration for the Hunt County Gives Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets. This annual assistance is provided by Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH in partnership with the Hunt County Coalition. Distribution dates are Saturday, November 18, and Saturday, December 16.

Local neighbors may register at the Commerce Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church or at our church on these dates and times:

- \* Commerce Food Pantry: Thursdays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. (regular pantry hours)
- \* FUMC-C: Wednesday, October 25, from 5 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday, October 31, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration is also at FISH in downtown Greenville during regular business hours throughout October.

Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 if you would like to help with registration!

• Thank you all for your donations to UMCOR for Hurricane Harvey Relief. The total giving was \$1,610.26. Your generosity will go a long way to help those recovering from the hurricane.



## September Serve Mission

In support of Hunger Action Month, volunteers visited the Bread of Life Food Pantry at the Church of the Nazarene in Commerce. After joining them for a potluck lunch, we learned about their monthly distribution on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month and helped set up for it.

Email BreadofLifeFoodPantry@yahoo.com or contact Jan Helton at 903.450.7335 to learn more or to volunteer.





## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Merry Marketplace & Lunch Mission Tradition Continues December 2, 2017



On Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will host our fifth annual Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions in the Family Ministry Center. This fundraiser benefits general missions, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. It's also a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community!

The Merry Marketplace will offer beautiful handwork from the Prayer Shawl Ministry as well as your donations of antiques and vintage finds, Christmas decorative items, gifts for giving, and homemade baked goods and treats. The Merry Market will again be the pick-up location for pre-ordered fresh evergreen wreaths and garlands from Sherwood Forest Farms. And following our strong tradition of alternative gifts, donors can contribute to missions in Commerce and beyond in honor of family and friends.

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry will sell chicken and beef stews to enjoy either at the Merry Marketplace for lunch or in quarts to-go. The Children's Choir will provide lunchtime entertainment.

Together, we can make it merry! We need your help to craft, bake, donate, promote, set up, price, sell, and clean up. Please contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 to get involved.



Nothing brings people together like good stew!

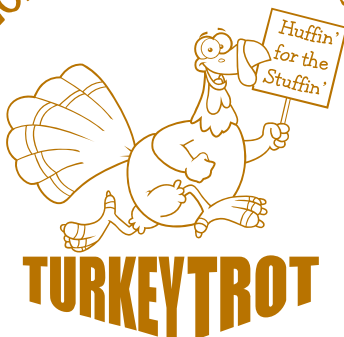


Orders for fresh evergreens are due Monday, November 6. Look for order forms in the Gathering Area or in the church office to share with friends and coworkers, or order online from the church's homepage.



2016 Merry Marketplace

2017 6th Annual Maloy Road



**Thanksgiving Day, November 23**  
**Begins 9 AM at 3920 FM 1568 (Maloy Rd)**  
**Benefiting Commerce Food Pantry**  
*Family Fun! Come Join Us! Walk or Run 5K!*

Register by Emailing [maloyroadturkeytrot@gmail.com](mailto:maloyroadturkeytrot@gmail.com)  
\$20 Registration Fee Includes T-Shirt [Adult Sizes Only (XS-XXXL)]

For More Information, Contact Celeste Prather @ 903-450-5579  
Individual & Corporate Sponsorships Available

# YOUTH NEWS

Date	Time/Location	Youth Event
October 1, 2017	4-5:30P FUMC	Join us at the Light Potluck and Service
October 8, 2017	4-6P FUMC	Meet at FUMC; Movie Night at Majestic 12
October 15, 2017	4-5:30P FUMC	Game Day
October 20, 2017	10A-7P Fair park	Meet at FUMC @ 10A and leave for State Fair
October 22, 2017	4-6P FUMC	Laser Tag and Bowling
October 29, 2017	6-8P WCM	Halloween Dance & Costume Contest
November 5, 2017	4-5:30P FUMC	Join us at the Light Potluck and Service

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Ad Council Chair:**  
Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

**Lay Leader:**  
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

**SPPRC Chair:**  
Jim Patton (903) 886-4612

**Trustees Chair:**  
Virginia Collier (903) 367-7588

**Finance Chair:**  
Gil Naizer (903) 886-1961

**FUMC Foundation President:**  
Anne Mills (903) 217-2615

**Connect Team Chair:**  
Susan Patton (903) 886-4612

**Grow Team Chair:**  
Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

**Serve Team Chair:**  
Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

**Lay Member:**  
Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498



### Weekend trip with the Wesleyan Campus Ministry!

We met up with a couple of other Wesleys in Dallas and helped work on some houses with the Zip Code Connection. Later that night (after much needed showers and food), we had a



discussion/worship/prayer stations regarding intersectionality. On Sunday Lakewood

Church kindly provided us with breakfast (and delicious mini quiches), and we attended their worship. Then we headed downtown to the Pride Parade. We volunteered at Oak Lawn UMC to help with their outreach to provide ADA seating on a portion of their lawn. When their need for volunteers subsided, some of us went out to their steps to watch the parade. It started late and went long but was fun nevertheless. We enjoyed watching the groups that are Reconciling Ministries within the United Methodist Church walk the parade, along with churches from other denominations that are inclusive. There is still a lot of work to be done, but watching those faith communities celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community gave me so much hope. Not to mention volunteering with Oak Lawn which opens it's doors to everyone to give them water, bathrooms, AC, and medical attention if heat exhaustion occurred. Plus, we had a lot of fun in fellowship with other college ministries!







**Luigi's Gives Back Sunday  
October 15**

If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%. Help support our church by eating some good food!

***In memory of...***

**Ahtrell Dalton**

By: Lena Faulkner  
Pat & Janet Skauge  
Martha & John Foote  
Alta Fay Peden

**Harry Icenhower**

By: Lena Faulkner  
Edna O'Quinn  
DeeAnn Gorham  
Linda King  
Harriet & Wyman Williams

**Harry Icenhower (continued)**

By: Dorothy Ward  
Loretta Kibler

**Faye Jackson**

By: Edna O'Quinn  
Loretta Kibler  
Employees of Guaranty  
Bank & Trust



**Attendance**

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
<b>Sep 3</b>	28	72	37	42	
<b>Sep 10</b>	31	73	53	35	
<b>Sep 13</b>					6
<b>Sep 17</b>	31	83	55	20	
<b>Sep 24</b>	31	81	58	31	



**Financial Information  
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of August 31, 2017</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 34,793	\$ 228,897
Expenses:	<u>\$ 28,512</u>	<u>\$ 239,802</u>
	\$ 6,281	-\$ 10,905

**Reading the Bible Daily**



As you seek to grow closer to God through daily prayer and Bible study, you may have your own favorite daily readings. If not, you will find Scriptures for each day listed below. We hope you'll read daily and ask yourself: "How will I be different today because of what I just read?" Some other questions you might ask are: What does this text say about who God is?" "What does this text say about who I am/who we are as human beings?" "What does this text say about our relationship with God?" You may want to reflect on paper with a journal or note pad. We hope this will become a part of your daily prayer time.

**Daily Scripture Readings:**

Sunday, Oct 1	Philippians 2:5-13
Monday, Oct 2	Exodus 20:18-20
Tuesday, Oct 3	Exodus 20:1-17
Wednesday, Oct 4	Psalm 19
Thursday, Oct 5	Philippians 3:4b-9
Friday, Oct 6	Philippians 3:10-14
Saturday, Oct 7	Matthew 21:33-41
Sunday, Oct 8	Matthew 21:42-46
Monday, Oct 9	Exodus 32:1-6
Tuesday, Oct 10	Exodus 32:7-10
Wednesday, Oct 11	Exodus 32:11-14; Philippians 4:6
Thursday, Oct 12	Psalm 106:1-6; Philippians 4:7-9
Friday, Oct 13	Psalm 106:19-23, Exodus 32:1-6
Saturday, Oct 14	Philippians 4:1-9
Sunday, Oct 15	Matthew 22:1-14
Monday, Oct 16	Exodus 33:12-23
Tuesday, Oct 17	Exodus 33:14
Wednesday, Oct 18	Exodus 33:16
Thursday, Oct 19	Psalm 99
Friday, Oct 20	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Saturday, Oct 21	Matthew 22:15-22
Sunday, Oct 22	Matthew 22:18-22
Monday, Oct 23	Psalm 1-6; 13-17
Tuesday, Oct 24	Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Wednesday, Oct 25	Deuteronomy 34:9-12
Thursday, Oct 26	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Friday, Oct 27	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Saturday, Oct 28	Matthew 22:41-46
Sunday, Oct 29	Matthew 22:34-40
Monday, Oct 30	Joshua 3:7-17
Tuesday, Oct 31	Revelation 7:9-17



## Prayer Lists

### Recent Concerns

Victims of Recent Natural Disasters  
Rev. Tom Dudley  
Jack Gray  
Euple Walker  
Family of Ahtrell Dalton

### Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, Rev. Carolyn Allbritton, Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Martha Clevenger, Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Jack & Gladys Gray, Sally Grove, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Loretta Kibler, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Carter McLeroy (Bob & Julie McLeroy's grandson), Betty Morton, Kyle Polard (Judy Fane's Son), Gayle Shumate, Robert Seay, Madeline Sullivan, Rev. Clay Yeager

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:** Roger & Jean Arnold, Helen Cole, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Gayle Shumate, and Euple Walker

**River Point (Kerrville, TX):** Lucy Potts

**Austin:** Ruby Vander Velde

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."  
James 5:16*

*Help us hold each other in prayer by contacting the church office with new prayer concerns and updates on existing prayer requests.*

*If you have someone you would like to add or remove from the prayer list, please let the church office know (903-886-3220).*



### **Remembering those serving in our military...**

Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins  
Lt. Dan Barton  
Daniel Chamberlain  
Mike Dempsey  
Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law  
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
Col. Keith Williams  
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons online, go to:

[www.revneal.org](http://www.revneal.org)  
[www.youtube.com/revneal](http://www.youtube.com/revneal)  
[www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo](http://www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo)



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**First United Methodist Church  
1709 Highway 24  
Commerce, TX 75428  
Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Articles for the next newsletter are due  
**Tuesday, October 24 by 9:00am**